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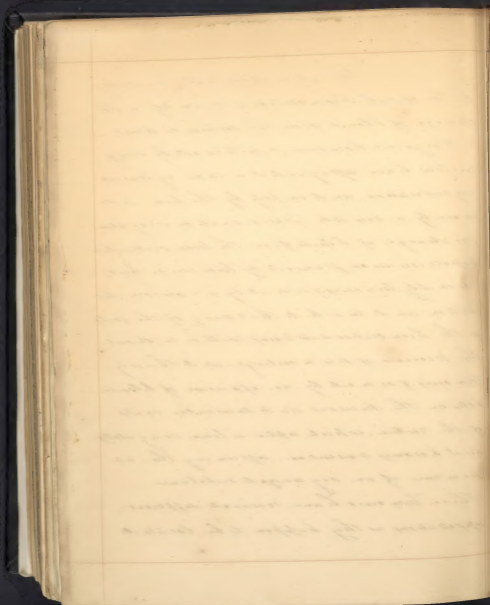
An Essay
on
Hæmorrhoids

by
Wm. E. Huger
of S. Carolina

for the Degree of Doctor of Medicine
- 1827 -

The etymological meaning
of the word *hemorrhoid*, is simply a dis-
charge of blood from the rectum or anus.

Surgeons have even, sanctioned by long
custom, have assigned it a more extensive
signification, and apply by the term, not
merely a simple periodical or irregular
discharge of blood from the *hemorrhoidal*
vessels, but are comprised by *hemorrhoids*, but
merely, *hemorrhoids*, &c. or merely by a varicose dis-
tention in the orbicular thickening of the coats
of the *hemorrhoidal* veins, with or without
the presence of *hemorrhoids*, and thirdly,
hemorrhoids, &c. or merely by an effusion of blood
between the mucous and muscular coats
of the rectum, which after a time coagulates
and becomes vascular, appearing the ap-
pearance of an organized substance —
These *hemorrhoids* have received different
appellations, as they happen to be located



on the inside, or outside of the sphincter
are muscles. When within the sphincter,
they are termed internal hemorrhoids—
When without the sphincter, external
hemorrhoids, or piles— They are
also distinguished by the epithet open
when they discharge blood and blood
when on inside or piles, when they are un-
attended by a discharge— The blood
is usually voided through the anus, standing,
may be divided either go on the artery,
or vein, and may arise from their dis-
tension or rupture, or rather cancer, namely, from
an abscess, go on the rupture of varicose
veins, which break from their too great
distention; or else, from an abrasion of the
coats of the coats veins, produced by
the pressure of hardened feces—

Women are more frequently the sub-
jects of this disease, than men; in con-

regions of their being more exposed
to the remote, and exciting causes—

Persons a de an each in life, are more
liable to be attacked by this disease,
than those, who are young, and partic-
ularly, so here they happen to be large
and corpulent; however, thin and
delicate people, are not entirely exempt
from the disease—

The causes of the disease, are very nu-
merous and diversified; and among the
most frequent may be enumerated, a
costive habit of body; pregnancy, and
particularly when attended by difficult
labour; relaxation and debility of
the whole living mechanism of the
pneumovide, and particularly of the
arteries; the suppression of some long
accustomed discharge, as the menses,
or the healing of an old ulcer &c;

sex or exercise of any kind, particularly on
hose back - The daily employment of
news paper from which the printer's ink is
easily separated, has a tendency to keep up
the disease, as the delicate epithelium, which
covers the tumour, is very much irritated
by the frequent application of so stimulating
a substance - Those persons are most
subject to this disease, who are of a full habit
of body, and are compelled by their occu-
pations, to lead a sedentary life -

The rectum, is peculiarly liable to in-
flamation and all its consequences, from
several circumstances - In the first place,
from its situation, being less subject
to the compressive pressure of the dia-
phragm and abdominal muscles: and
also to pressure, arising from a disten-
sion or enlargement of any of the abdominal
viscera, which pressure in both instances

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has a direct tendency to retard the passage
of the blood through the venous sinusoids
vessels. The blood has not only to con-
tend against its own gravitation, it is
deprived of the assistance of it always, but
as has been observed, the contractions
of the muscles has a tendency to retard its
progress, differing in this respect, from
veins in other parts of the body, where
muscular action tends to facilitate the
passage of venous blood towards the centre
of circulation — Secondly, the retention
from its proximity to the uterus and vagi-
na, in the female; and the bladder and
prostate gland, in the male, is liable
to be affected by their several diseases
or an enlargement of either of these
organs, may in consequence of pressure,
produce irritation, or by retarding the
circulation of the part, give rise to inflammation.



ination, which may terminate in the pro-
duction of sanguineous, or an of trans-
sation of blood in the cellular texture.

The structure of the rectum is well
calculated to favour the formation of
tumours, in consequence of the looseness of
its cellular texture, which readily admits
of great distention. The peculiar arrange-
ment of the Muscular Fibres of the lower
portion of this intestine, would also seem to
favour the formation of piles, the longi-
tudinal being so arranged, as to pass over
the edge of the circular fibres, constituting
what is termed the internal sphincter;
and are certainly or rather lost in the
Mucous Membrane. The cellular texture
about the anus being loose, when bleeding
effused, we have distinct or cryptic piles,
or else a tumid ring, surrounding the
entire verge of the anus. The Mucous



coat being very loose, adapts itself to the dilatation and contraction of the muscular power of the intestine, and hence, as the blood continues, this coat is thrown into violent pulsing, and it transverse & oblique the spermatic vessels. - It not infrequently happens, that one or more of these follicles protrude, during the evacuation of the body.

Finally, the vessel, in which the spermatic matter is subject to disease, & in the female matter is circulating in its cavity, dilates its walls, and thus creates an obstacle to the free passage of the blood through the vessel. The cupidity chiefly suffers in this case. For the large being ramified on the outer wall of the intestine - the follicles continue to accumulate, the rectum being more and more distended, the circulation of the blood is at length suspended. The





pain is renewed every time the patient
has occasion to evacuate his bowels - They
are generally free from pain, as long as
they remain internal, being then in
contact with soft and yielding parts, but
as soon as they obtain exit to the rectum, they
are soon in pain; and at each period, are
retained with greater difficulty, requiring
much time and pains to remove them;
they gradually become more painful and
irritable, at the same time hard & stationary,
they are more or less, indurated, and of considerable
size - Not so frequently, the sphincter
embraces them so closely, as to cause
them to slough off - by continuing what
is termed a Natural cure.

The appearances, presented by these obstructions,
turning, are extremely varying, their number,
depending on the period they have existed,
they are situated around the neck of the



anus; some times of a regular bulbous and
at other times of an irregular appearance;
of a dark blue color, resembling in some
instances, a bunch of grapes; they are covered
with a very delicate skin, which partly consists
of the fine skin immediately on the outside
of the anus, and partly of the mucous mem-
brane of the intestine. The tumors are
generally entire, but they have occasionally
small openings, through which blood is
discharged, and when they happen to be
ruined, the quantity lost is sometimes very
considerable.

Dr. Linn. makes a distinction between
various, and hemorrhoidal tumours, by consid-
ering the circumstances of their development
and progress. Various commence by slow
degrees, unmarked by pain, irritation, or heat.
They are soft to the touch, oblong in form,
and acquire no hardness, until the blood

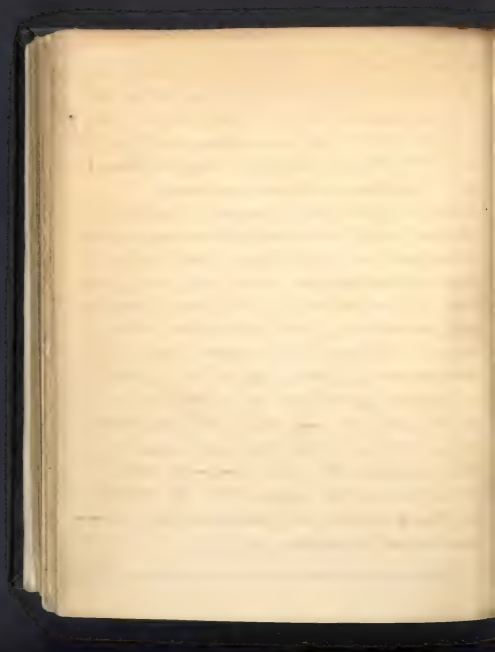


which they contain coagulates. They pro-
duce no pain, are less irritable & tornally,
or become greatly distended with blood.
Their volume progressively increases; they
are not subject to periodical changes; never
shrink and disappear, or produce a dis-
charge of blood, unless when injured by
accidents, or degenerate into ulcers; and
that they exhibit no disposition to run into
cancer or scirrhus. On the other
hand, hemorrhoids appear suddenly, and
are most frequently preceded by itching
and prickling sensations about the rectum
and anus; weight in the perineum, and
a dull pain in the region of the lower
sacrum. They are often attended by in-
flammation; their form is circular; they
are firm, give the cone & can move; to their
periods of tension succeed a withering
and wrinkling of their coverings; they have



periodical exacerbations, and remissions; the sanguineous discharges; they appear to put a crisis to other diseases, though they do not bleed; and they sometimes they create other serious and dangerous illness.

Other Surgeons have drawn a distinction between these two kinds of tumours, however observation and experience show, that in tumours both on the inside and outside of the vessel from a varicose state of the veins of the abdomen, on the inside may also arise, from the same cause, in this case, the varicose veins and go out through the skin during the evacuation of the bowels, if they remain in this situation any time, their contents coagulate, and thus form one species of piles; though the most common form of external piles arise, from an effusion of blood between the mucous, and muscular coats of the intestine.



in the same, in this so not on the whole, observed,
that, in cases of long standing, the external
tunics are changed both in nature and
appearance, their contents regulate
and become solid, their coats increase
in thickness, and they never be peculiar
evidence in other parts of the body.

Thinly observing, that from some
new dissections, he is inclined to believe,
that, this disease is not confined in a single
instance, by a rare or distortion of the
great external vena but that they
apt can to consist of a prolongation of
the cellular texture, surrounded by some
vessels, and covered by the integuments
which form the sacculum in of the
venae. In every case where he examined
of internal & external, their structure
was very similar. The veins however
were enlarged in some degree.



Dr James Earle, describes his method
treatment as arising from a dilatation of
the hepatic veins, and as such, that
when they are exposed to pressure, their
contents regulate, and gradually become
vascular, even being in very irregular sub-
stances.

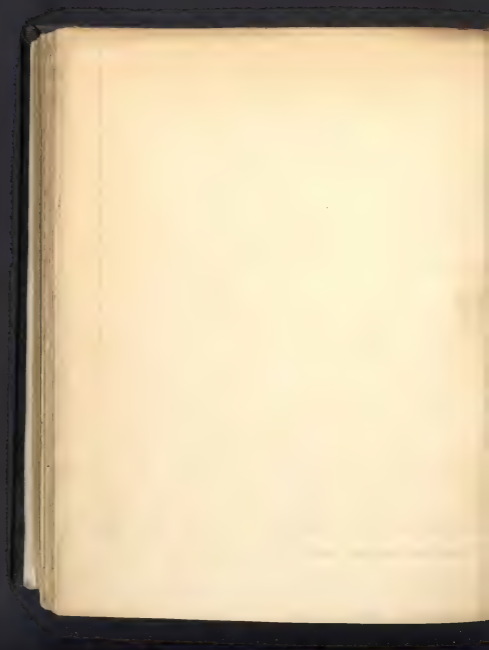
This disease may terminate in
several different ways: if they appear
in the form of tumors, by the judicious
use of pressure, and by a proper atten-
tion to the bowels, the veins may possibly
be made to contract to their former size
and if blood be effused, this may
be absorbed, and resolution thus effec-
ted. When all avenues to progress, is often
lost, the dilatation of the hepatic veins
or of the stomach, and cancer, something
the patient loses his life from the
hemorrhage, which is at times expected.



In the local want of homogeneous matter con-
sideration must be paid to the cause from
where they arise, whether of a general or
local nature, and also even why it is
increasing. If a certain habit of body
prevails, that condition ought to be over-
come by the administration of some gentle
laxative medicine, the patient being confined
at the same time, & such articles of food
as have a tendency to keep the bowels in
a soluble state, and what proves most
effective in our country a certain habit, is
the regular observance of stated intervals
for the purpose of soliciting an evacuation
with our stimulus. I should be loath to
yield the use of opiate to any but resorted
to with a due regard, and for this purpose
such only should be selected as of great
mildness, seeing their effects more to soothe
than irritate, & therefore, for a little action



an imitation only but to be as effectual as
possible - I have an enlargement of any
of the ab & on in v. as com. from the remote
cause of this disease, it is evident, that all
attempts to cure the hemorrhoids will prove
ineffectual, until the primary complaint
be removed, and the progress taken off from
the hemorrhoidal veins - If the process
given is by nature and delicacy of the whole
being the cause of the present ailment, we
must employ such means as are calculated
to strengthen, and give tone, for that pur-
pose, Mr. Abernethy recommends line-
ation, joined with the Peruvian bark -
The employment of anodynes under these
circumstances, prove very serviceable, but
acting out opposition to the power, almost
always increases the disease - It then they
arise from the suppression of some long and
formed discharge, and circumstances justifying



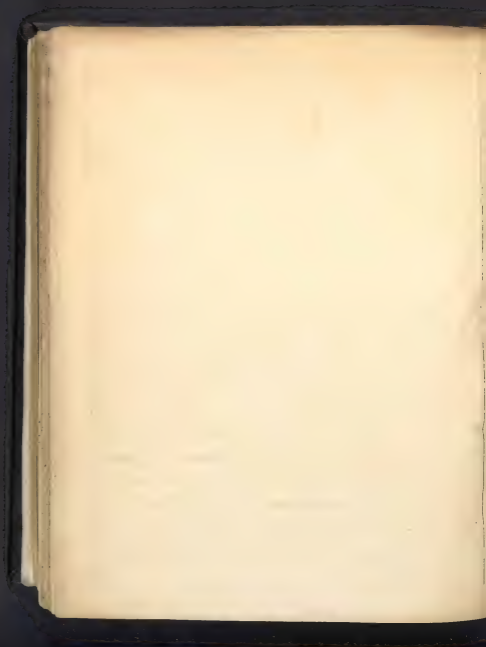
in color, as well as in texture. In the
process of coloration the color of the bronchial
and arterial system is altered. The arterial system
is said to be blue in the system in that condition.
would the patient receive a sufficient amount
of oxygen. The color of the blood is altered in
a decided manner. An attention to diet and
a sufficient quantity of exercise may be attended to
to have a tendency to do so. It is in a
very advanced stage. When the embolus
forms and the red color of the blood is
a very striking extent of the
largest effort. For a time, I can assure
must be tried in the most efficient means
to support the hemorrhage. The patient
must be placed in a cool situation, on a
hard bed, with the head a little elevated.
The food and drink may be given cold, in
small quantities, to give intensity,
as well as by the use of cold as a general agent.



tion and what some times answers an equal
and purpose the intention of Turpentine
which operates by softening the cuticle
thus facilitating the discharge of the
Worms which come from the skin in virtue
of the reason the employment of Turpentine
by the Cancer and other means. After
removing the employment of caliche applica
tion of turpentine the necessity of daily
by means of cloths or by pouring them
on a bright, green, a very pleasant
mode of softening the skin and
It has been observed before, when inter
nal is an extremely scaly skin, they ought to
separate to be more readily removed, for if
they are allowed to remain in their skin
where they increase in size and number
and so on. For the contraction of the
epithelium upon the skin gives rise to some
times when by using the medicine.



involves the strong action of the lungs and
the action of the system in order to
prevent disease which have a tendency to pro-
pagate the disease, and also the lungs
to be reduced some under the operation
of by heat from outside, and to be treated
accordingly. When these lungs become
very much inflamed and painful, the
breathing is difficult, and is assisted by the fan-
ct of the affords much relief to the patient.
The treatment of pneumonia, soon be-
come in this operation are running the
most in patients of this genus in the early
the treatment of pneumonia, in the early, a the
by which does not extend then being a day
most, not only, the treatment, is of a
local nature. The treatment, such
as living in a warm, have been highly re-
commended in pneumonia, and of course
part of the treatment of pneumonia, have been



with the addition of Opium, & the whole
is to be used as also an ointment, & some of
it will be used in a paste with
Laudanum, and then incorporated with
simpla create the incision of Catgall
and called as the yent Ointment. Some Surgeons
specially I have used it in practice in a
of the gum persianum, & on a case
then at the back of the person on the
it is of being serviceable in the hands
of many people. When the skin is
in about a day or so into a cast, the
exhibition of Dr. Wadell's paste has proved
convincing in the case of the back of a
man being taken to in a three a day -
I have used a lot of the Gum of Persia
in my life connected with some people
but on some of them a lot, and it carefully
used and within the space of the spine
in. Wadell -



When hamorrhoidal tumours become insupportable from their magnitude and number, in enlarging with the junction of the intestine, and from their being in an inflamed and ulcerated state, keeping up an insupportable action of the parts, and thereby increasing the disease, an operation becomes operation for effecting a radical cure.

There are two operations now in use among Surgeons, each of which has its advocates, and each party, equally confident of the superiority of the method which they have practised. Some advise them to be removed by the knife or scissars, others by the application of ligatures. The last method appears to deserve a preference, as all danger from hemorrhage is avoided, though the advocates of the first hold out the danger of symptoms of strangulated hernia arising, which in some



instances where the signature has been
applied, have proved of barely obste-
nate-baffling or any remedy, save the
removal of the signature, which in me-
diately causes every way and by a plaster

After having distended the patients for
some time, if this system should require
it, can be done all over on having been
paid to the occupation, and regulation
of his capacity, if necessary, the patients
may be made to sit over a tub of warm
water, and the parts bathed in warm
bromine water. This is a very useful measure,
as it gives relief & facilitates the protrusion of
the tumour, through the sphincter, by
the great relaxation which it produces
in the parts chiefly concerned in the op-
eration. Having succeeded in drawing
out the tumour by the above means,
Mr. Abernethy advises, that they should

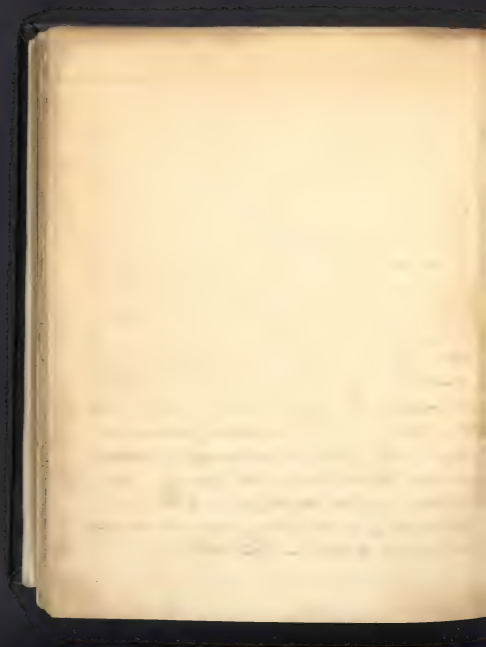


to seized by a double hook if a breadth
corresponding to the length of the running
anastomosis drawn up to and down the beak
it, to remove then with a pair of scissors.
It is a wise a protruded and thickened
fold of the lamella be seized in the same
manner, though he thinks it safer to
employ the bistouri in this case, as the
depth to which the scissars may penetrate
is uncertain. The incision in both cases
should be made longitudinally, in the
direction of the long diameter of the beak.
Then I resemble curved line, curved at each
extremity. The operation having been
properly made, he says the lamella to
slide as long as it is dispossessed to do so,
and after it entirely ceases, the part
must be completely replaced in their
proper situation by the finger previously
anointed. Its irritation is a cause of



a hemorrhage from the small vessels, under
as the tendency of any part of the breast
on the yoke of the sphincter would
produce it he decides this part of the
operation to be carefully attended to -
The patient should be placed in a
horizontal position the knees of course
under the parts in the thigh & arm bands
of the arms & of course is attended with
cold water to check in & to be in
and consequently been on hand.

Mr Pitt as well as other equally ex-
perienced surgeons, as well as on the third
time being to be always seen or called by the
Regiment. The patient should be
under the same preparatory to attend
as is usual in the former op-
eration, as been on hand is to be at
carefully & is in the case
as in & is in the other



The most approved method of removing
hemorrhoidal tumours is by means of the
double canula and wire, or rectum catheter
of Dr. Physick, or the removal of scissoring
or enlarged tonsils. The canula should
be at least 9 or 10 inches in length; the wire
used, should be in diameter, at one end
two thirds of fourth part of an inch; being suf-
ficiently stiff to admit of being easily
drawing ago it goes on the tumour, when neces-
sary. The canula being inserted, may be
applied, according to the appearance of
Mr. Ware, to the most inflamed and
sanguine tumour in the corner; the other
frequently disappears, if other cause, the
operation may be performed on the remain-
ing tumour successively one after the other.
The canula should be all covered to remain
in about six days, if not longer, as it then could
easily be removed, the tumour in the corner of



by a sloop, in the course of three or four
days— After the operation, the pati-
ent, diet should be carefully regulated,
the nourishment given, ought to be of
the most nutritive quality, and as
small in quantity as possible, as the
necessity of co-animating the alimentary
canal, should be delayed, in order to
give the wounded parts an opportunity
of uniting— Should the bowels become
irritable, an opiate pill, or a few drops of
Camdanum may be exhibited to tranqui-
lize them: however, should the whole
permea &c become deranged, and a
necessity exist, demanding an evacuation,
we may employ some gentle laxative—
When these circumstances it has been ad-
vised, that the patient should not attempt
to evacuate his bowels, till his sensations
become urgent; and then it should be

affected with as little effort as possible;
if any part of the wound be damaged
by the passage of the fluid, it should
be immediately replaced; and if
necessary, a small quantity of Lau da-
num may be administered to tran-
quillize the intestines. The wound
generally heals in the course of eight
or ten days, provided no untoward
circumstances occur during the progress
of the cure.

[Faint, illegible handwriting in cursive script, likely a letter or manuscript page.]